

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

East Providence School Committee

East Providence City Hall - Council Chamber

145 Taunton Avenue

East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

August 12, 2014

Open Session

Mr. Monteiro, Chairman, Called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Members Present: Elizabeth Clupny, Timothy Conley, Anthony Ferreira, Joel Monteiro (Richard Pimentel absent). Also present: Kim Mercer, Superintendent of Schools, etc.

Motion by Ms. Clupny that the Committee convene in Executive Session for purposes of discussing: Personnel – R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (1); Collective Bargaining R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (2); Litigation//Pending Litigation-R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (2), seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 4-0.

Motion by Ms. Clupny to return to Public Session, seal the minutes of the exec session, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 4-0.

Report Executive Session Votes-None

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag & Moment of Silence were observed. Mr. Monteiro stated that a candle will stay lit in honor of deceased School Committee member, Richard Pimentel, for the remainder of his term; he will be missed by all. Also, honored the memory of former Superintendent John V. DeGoes, who passed away last week.

Community Recognition

Julie Motta, Assistant Superintendent and co-presenter, Jessica Beauchaine, presented a certificate to

Rep. Joy Hearn for her effort in obtaining a \$5,000. Grant for Middle School Sports; thanks to Joy for sitting down to discuss this and her efforts to obtain grant; uniforms for boys and girls track team; cheerleaders' competition fees; softball and baseball needed.

East Bay Community Action – EP READS Volunteers – Vicky White from EBCAP – expressed condolences to the School Committee on the loss of School Committee member Richard Pimentel. Julie Motta presented certificates to the EP READS volunteers.

Public Comment I – Agenda Items – Motion by Ms. Clupny to open up discussion for agenda and non-agenda items; move up Item K, seconded by Mr. Conley. Vote 4-0. Mr. Monteiro noted that this has been requested in the past so that people do not have to wait until the end of the meeting to speak.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Mercer requested that Dawn August, Curriculum Coordinator, report on the Accelerated Learning Community along with David Britto and Stephen Prew. The report provided an overview of a new program at the high school; attempted to understand graduation rate and drop-out rate this past year through policies implemented such as on-line learning, credit recovery, transition to 9th grade more accessible for all; all positive, but still have a population not served well by us; reviewed graduation rates; this year's data not yet available; drop- out rates indicate room for improvement; hoping to accomplish coordinated effort of all stake holders; logic of model is to try to offer all students at the high school, academic and behavioral support; identify students with limited success; intervention through a grant; handbook and application for program provided.

Shared Mission Statement and Program Objectives, Admittance requirements, Program Structure, Curriculum and Schedule reviewed.

Discussion took place. Julie Motta, Assistant Superintendent, added that the goal is to get the students back on track and caught up on work (recovering credits) through counseling and support, to transition them back into the high school with supports in place.

Mr. Conley had a concern about why kids do not graduate; need to identify why kids are at risk before they get to high school.

Dawn August explained this is a United Way opportunity which has

shown success in nine other districts; staff trained and ready.

Mr. Ferreira requested cost of the program and requested a quarterly report on staff, supplies, to get whatever they need for the students in our district.

Superintendent Mercer asked to move up Item I2 – Motion by Ms. Clupny to move up Action Items 1 and 2 before Facilities Report; seconded by AF. Vote 4-0.

Action Items

East Providence Local Advisory Committee Report – Amanda Fournier and Sharon Kocon presented the Annual Report; EPLAC Purpose, Membership List and Roles and Responsibility; recognized Eileen Crudele, Director of Pupil Personnel, for participation at meetings; Submitted By-Laws with two changes made; leadership team and staggered terms in order to have experienced person on leadership team.

After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Conley to accept the Bylaws, seconded by Ms. Clupny. Vote 4-0.

Personnel Appointments/Recalls

Motion by Ms. Clupny to accept the Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations:

Yanaiza Gallant-Principal-Orlo Elementary School Motion by Ms. Clupny, seconded by Mr. Conley. Vote 3-1; Mr. Ferreira voted nay.

Donna Peluso – Principal – Oldham Elementary School – Motion by Ms. Clupny, seconded by Mr. Conley. Vote 3-1; Mr. Ferreira voted nay.

Patricia Piros-Accelerated Learning Community Program Specialist-CTC/ALC – to support students in the ALC; switched from another position; no added costs; motion by Ms. Clupny to approve, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 4-0.

Facilities Report –Ed Catelli, Facilities Director and Architects from SMMA, Ben and Tony, provided updates as follows:

Whiteknact Project – Progress on roof good; happy with work there; discussion regarding drainage on courtyard area; School Committee did not get information on final layout and approval; question and discussion about a sign off on inspection. SMMA responded that would be through Mr. Catelli's office.

Mr. Ferreira requested information on credit issues with drainage ditch. Ben from SMMA – credit approximately \$23,000; in the end about a \$2,000 credit. Discussion regarding requirement for DEM approval and design plans; Mr. Ferreira felt that the drainage ditch could have been done with a shovel tied into the sewer system. Mr. Ferreira stated that there were no stamped drawings on the job.

Mr. Conley did not recall any conversation about a revision of the project.

Ms. Clupny said she remembered options being discussed but we did not hear anything further.

Mr. Monteiro was waiting to see the drawings; revisions made; his concern with inspection. Mr. Catelli responded that city engineer inspected it.

Ben from SMMA – did send documents for any meetings with School Committee; still defer to engineers for how site will handle water and follow their recommendations; engineer made recommendations and that was carried out in a responsible way.

Mr. Conley had concerns as to why project was not done the original way.

SMMA – Tony responded that they tried to do a minimal amount of damage to the courtyard.

Waddington Playground – Volunteers are expected for August 22 and 23rd; city crew to help out; looking forward to a successful build.

Mr. Ferreira – projects should be signed off on; when will Whiteknact be done; are we on track. Mr. Catelli stated that roof should be completed within two weeks by Labor Day weekend. Working on

Saturday to make up time; weather permitting ahead of schedule. Mr. Ferreira hopes the area will be put back the way it was when done. Should get an update by the end of the week.

Science Lab at High School – Discussion: Ben stated that Taber and Irons to finish room punch list; counter top issues; he asked for a schedule so teachers can move in and train. Discussion about notifying contractor by letter and getting someone else to do the job. Discussion about how notification should be made to contractor. Mr. Silva, Legal Counsel, advised that the work should be done by the contractor; process through the contract and if process interrupted, we can be accused of depriving the contractor of his rights to do the work.

Tony – SMMA – minimal work on punch list; Bahry Construction offered to get the work done; would be a way to get the work done sooner. (Work under \$5,000).

Mr. Ferreira – we were supposed to do a walk through in May; students need to be in the classroom; nothing has been done since May

Discussion regarding the cabinets; call company to see if they received payment; do we know if Irons had them come back.

It was decided that Mr. Catelli would contact the sub-contractor to come back.

Mr. Monteiro – someone responsible needs to take ownership; Superintendent asked to follow up.

Motion by Ms. Clupny to contact original sub-contractor to come in, seconded by Mr. Conley. Vote 4-0. Mr. Monteiro requested a punch list and value of the items; School Committee needs an update on what we are waiting for in that room.

Further discussion regarding contracts and the possibility of legal counsel looking into a different contract type for future jobs. AIA contracts can be modified with particular language for a project.

Personnel Report on Resignation/Leaves of Absence/Retirement

Leslie Hahn-Library/Media-Orlo/Whiteknact-Effective 8/15/14

Action Items

Home School Requests – Motion by Ms. Clupny to accept, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 4-0

Requisitions – Bill List

Warrant #1428 8/7/14 \$7,715.71

Warrant #1430 8/7/14 \$1,055,728.45

**Motion by Ms. Clupny to approve bill lists, seconded by Mr. Ferreira.
Vote 4-0.**

Awarding of Bid

Waddington Masonry Work – Discussion regarding how the job was bid without drawings; Mr. Catelli will restructure the bid and get back to the School Committee.

**Motion by Mr. Conley to award the bid to Barone on condition that the contractor agrees on the specs of the job, seconded by Ms. Clupny.
Vote 4-0.**

HS Auditorium Panels – Discussion about the panels; Mr. Ferreira recommended the purchase; approximately \$2600. Motion by Ms. Clupny to purchase panels for the high school auditorium, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 4-0.

Amended Policies for First Passage:

V.A.8 Attendance Policy and Procedures - Discussion regarding policy and procedures; Mr. Monteiro recommended deferring this policy in order to have School Committee submit suggestions for changes. Motion by Ms. Clupny to defer to future meeting, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 4-0.

II.J.5. Criminal Records Background Checks – Kim Mercer recommended approval; changes made as a result of an amendment

to the law. Ms. Clupny read the changes and made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

IV.D.1 Placement, Promotion, Retention and Grading – Motion to accept first passage with changes, seconded by Mr. Conley. Vote 4-0.

New Policy for Student Teacher Interns and Cooperating Teachers – Julie Motta, Assistant Superintendent explained this policy is to ensure that decisions on placing student teachers are made in the best interest of our students and teachers. Mr. Ferreira requested more time to read the policy. Motion by Mr. Ferreira to defer policy to the next meeting, seconded by Ms. Clupny. Vote 4-0.1q1

Old Business - None

Public Comment II – Non Agenda Items - None

Announcements Opening of School – September 4, 2014

Mr. Monteiro still working on a date for the dedication of the high school gymnasium and floor.

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Clupny, seconded by Mr. Conley. Vote 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant

Nathan Cahoon, Clerk of the Committee